

**In the Claims:**

1. (Original) A method for preparing a hydroxyalkyl starch, comprising the steps of:  
providing a starch; and  
reacting said starch with a starch hydroxyalkylating agent in the presence of an alcohol and an alkali metal at a temperature effective to produce a granular hydroxyalkylated starch having an MS sufficient to render said hydroxyalkylated starch cold water soluble.
- 2 - 47 (Canceled).